

I am outraged that the Sinclair corporation is planning to show a clearly biased, anti-Kerry film shortly before the election. The only way in which this would be justifiable is if they showed an anti-Bush film within a 48 hour period, at the same time.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

This is a critical situation that demands your immediate attention. The media were correctly identified by the founding fathers as the 4th estate, an independent voice absolutely essential for democracy.

If the media do not serve this role, our democracy is in danger.

Thank you.